

Olmsted

"I never saw anything like it. Great chasms 20 or 30 feet deep are spanned by temporary plank bridges...Whole row of houses are only accessible by narrow up & down plank walks and temporary flights of steps. But it will be a great improvement when done." John C. Olmsted in a letter to his wife commenting on the Denny Regrade project, April 2, 1907

NEWS

FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS

Spring 2004

FSOP Annual Meeting ~ April 18

FSOP Annual Meeting with Paul Dorpat Changing Seattle 1903~1911

Sunday, April 18, 2004 3:00-5:00pm

Cal Anderson Park Shelter House

11th Avenue and East Olive Street on Capitol Hill

Refreshments served

Please join us for a presentation by Paul Dorpat on development of Seattle during the era when John Charles Olmsted visited and worked in Seattle. It was a time of great changes and major civic projects.

This will be FSOP's first use of the new shelter house at Cal Anderson Park - one of the Neighborhood Matching Grant projects FSOP helped manage, along with Groundswell Off Broadway. Cal Anderson Park, originally known as Lincoln Park, was the first park designed by the Olmsted Brothers in Seattle.

2004 marks the centennial of the park plan which was prepared in 1904 and built in 1906. The landmark park is undergoing renewal with the covering of the reservoir and construction of the new park on top.



FSOP BOARD – APRIL 2004

As part of the annual meeting, the officers and board of FSOP will be elected. The proposed slate is:

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Upcoming Event ~ May 11

Arboretum Historic Review Presentation by Susan Boyle and Karen Kiest

Tuesday May 11, 2004 7:00pm

Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum
2300 Arboretum Drive East

Free to the public. Refreshments following.

You are invited to hear Susan Boyle of BOLA Architecture + Planning and Karen Kiest of Karen Kiest Landscape Architects present a summary of the Washington Park Arboretum Historic Review. This report documents the history of Washington Park and the Arboretum from the era of pre-settlement up through the early 1970s. It was funded by the 2000 Pro Parks Levy (administered by Seattle Parks and Recreation), and developed with the review of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden Committee.

The preparation of this historic review was advocated by FSOP as one of the steps in preparation for implementing the Arboretum Master Plan. The study includes information on the planning by the Olmsted Brothers for development of Washington Park and Lake Washington Boulevard in the early 1900s as well as the original master planning for the Arboretum in the 1930s.

This event is sponsored by the Center for Urban Horticulture, Washington Park Arboretum Foundation, and the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks.

Refreshments compliments of FSOP. Attendees will have a chance to review some of the original historic documents after the presentation.

Olmsted Events

April 18 FSOP Annual Meeting with Paul Dorpat
3-5pm Cal Anderson Park Shelter House

May 3 FSOP Board Meeting
7pm 100 Dexter Avenue North

May 11 Arboretum History Presentation
7pm with Karen Kiest & Susan Boyle
Graham Visitors Center

June 7 FSOP Board Meeting
7pm 100 Dexter Avenue North

www.seattle.gov/FriendsofOlmstedParks

SR 520 Impacts on the Arboretum

There is a very brief opportunity to improve the future health of the Washington Park Arboretum and **you can help**. An average of 19,000 vehicles travel on Lake Washington Boulevard through the Arboretum every day. This will only increase with the proposed 520 highway redevelopment.

Washington State Department of Transportation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on alternatives for SR520 which passes over Foster Island through the Arboretum. The various alternative include 4 lane, 6 lane and 8 lane options. Larry Sinnott, who serves as the Northeast District representative to the SR 520 Arterial/Street Improvement Study, has been asking WSDOT to include an alternative in the EIS which would evaluate the option of removing the Arboretum ramps, so as to reduce the traffic impacts on the Arboretum. [See adjacent statement]

As the Arboretum Master Plan Implementation Guidelines, adopted by City Council state: ***“Lake Washington Boulevard is a Park-owned historic park boulevard. Because the R.H. Thompson Expressway was not built and the temporary free-way ramps connect to Lake Washington Boulevard, the resulting auto traffic volume, congestion, noise and air pollution are detrimental to the Arboretum plant collection and the park experience.”*** And further: ***“For the health of the Arboretum and the reclamation of Lake Washington Boulevard as a park boulevard, it is a goal to have the 520 ramps and their entrances relocated entirely out of the Arboretum and ideally not connected to Lake Washington Boulevard.”*** (Res #30317, 5/7/2001)

BACKGROUND

State legislation by Rep. Ed Murray, HB 1163, authorized \$250,000, to be matched by the City of Seattle for a total of \$500,000, to help three neighborhoods (Montlake, Portage Bay/Roanoke Park, and North Capital Hill) hire designers and planners to improve connections between the 520 Bridge rebuild and the most impacted neighborhoods.

Each of the three neighborhood associations has two votes and WSDOT has one vote. The meetings have been facilitated by David Allen, Senior Planner with Seattle Department of Transportation. The Eastlake Community and the Northeast District Council (NEDC) were not formally included, but two representatives from each are participating in all discussions. Most decisions are reached by consensus, and few things come to an actual vote.

David Allen presented an update to the City Council's Transportation Committee on February 10, and it is available for review on the City's website.

A decision was made to hire John Owen with Makers as technical advisor/designer/facilitator for the study group, primarily to help select and guide the transportation consultant, which went to the Transpo

Group of Kirkland. Additional studies, planning, and modeling was to be finished by March 31, to be submitted with the study group recommendations after review by Seattle Transportation and City Council to WSDOT for their 520 EIS analysis.

CONCERNS FOR THE ARBORETUM by Larry Sinnott

I am Larry Sinnott, one of the two designated reps for the Northeast District Council. They know of my concerns for existing traffic impacts on the Arboretum, and the NEDC has encouraged me to pursue those concerns in recruiting me to be their rep to this 520 Study Group.

All of the existing ramps in the Arboretum will be removed in all of the proposed alternatives, and new ramps would be built to replace them. I have been insisting that WSDOT give us real good reasons why new ramps have to be built back into the park. Those “ramps to nowhere” were built in anticipation of the R. H. Thompson Freeway that was voted down 40 years ago. These new ramps will duplicate access that is 200 yards away at Montlake, and would continue to serve only single occupancy vehicle traffic.

I have been concerned about increasing traffic volumes in the Arboretum over the last few years. It is quite evident to me that many eastside commuters are cutting through the Arboretum to avoid congestion on I-5 and the Portage Bay section of 520. Both morning and evening eastbound traffic can be seen entering the park on the very narrow extension of Boyer Ave. E and then turning left (northbound) onto Lake Washington Blvd, with the only plausible destination as 520. I have heard that commuters on I-5 will exit at Lakeview, before 520, and come over Capital Hill to get to these ramps.

Another large eastbound component of this cut-through, or non-neighborhood, traffic comes east on Madison St. and turns northbound into the southern entrance to the Arboretum. Merchants along the Capital Hill section of Madison have complained to Councilmembers Conlin and McIver about an apparent increase in peak commute hour traffic, and Mr. Conlin is quite certain that this increase is due to 520 commuters avoiding I-5 by cutting through the Arboretum. I have also heard of large volumes of traffic going to and from Seahawks and Mariners games by way of the Arboretum and Madison St.

I believe that these ramps in the Arboretum have become a “cut-through magnet”, which attracts commuters far from the neighborhoods around the park. I don't believe we should be paying for new ramps, if most of the users are just avoiding backups on I-5 and Portage Bay.

WSDOT should trade that land back to the Arboretum to compensate for the added land they are taking to widen 520. The Arboretum is a major link in our historic Olmsted Park System and should not be subverted as a fast track to and from the eastside.

*Lawrence A. (Larry) Sinnott, Assoc. AIA
Ravenna-Bryant Community Association (RBCA)
NEDC Rep to SR 520 Arterial/Street Improvement Study
renzo-1@comcast.net.206-523-1465*

We need your help on this important issue. If you would like more information or to help, please contact Larry Sinnott.

100 Year Planning–Envisioning The Future

The theme of the Seattle Olmsted Centennial was “Learning from the Past, Inspiring the Future.” The vision that Olmsted and our early civic leaders provided a century ago inspires us to think boldly about the future. The distant mountains, forests and waters provide the “borrowed landscape” that is critical to the enjoyment of the Olmsted park system in Seattle. The Centennial Committee encouraged all of the partners to consider how to use the Olmsted legacy as a springboard for future park and open space planning in our region.



The Cascade Land Conservancy has taken the challenge with a major new initiative. Cascade Land Conservancy is inviting us to think about the legacy we will leave for the next 100 years.

Cascade Dialogues

What will define our region in 100 years? Can we develop a regional vision to guide our conservation efforts to retain the beauty and vitality of our region’s natural and working landscapes for future generations to enjoy?

The Pacific Northwest is a region of unparalleled natural beauty. Through the Cascade Dialogues, Cascade Land Conservancy and its partners seek to protect our natural heritage while embracing the expansion of our region’s population and continuing growth of our economy. The Cascade Dialogues will:

1. Develop a bold strategic vision and plan of action for the 21st century– The Cascade Agenda – to preserve and restore urban, rural and wild landscapes and open space in our region with measurable outcomes; and
2. Create working partnerships among community leaders, business and corporate leaders, and elected officials to shape this region’s growth, economic development and ecological well-being.

The Cascade Dialogues will bring together a variety of individuals, organizations, government leaders and businesses to discuss the value of conservation in our community and the intersection between conservation and quality of life.

Input and guidance from a broad range of stakeholders will be gathered through written public forums and face-to-face community Town Hall meetings. Input will be synthesized through a series of Insight Panel discussions.

A Steering Committee of community leaders from across the region has been assembled to guide the Dialogues and craft the final prospectus, the Cascade Agenda, with staff support from Cascade Land Conservancy and CommEn Space.

The Cascade Agenda, will be a narrative and visual articulation of a landscape vision for the 21st century that captures the best features of our community and region. This strategic plan will guide actions and influence the region to conserve and care for a landscape that will sustain us for the next centuries.

Town Hall Meetings

Town Hall meetings begin with the presentation of a map of the local landscape, developed in conjunction with CommEn Space, that shows the areas that are currently conserved and those that could be. The discussion will address conservation tools that are appropriate to the surrounding community. Members of the Steering Committee, participants in the upcoming panel discussions and local community leaders will attend the Town Hall meetings to hear directly from citizens.

Pierce County Town Hall

Monday, May 3rd, 2004 6:30 – 8:30pm
The Mountaineers, Tacoma Branch
2302 N. 30th Street, Tacoma, WA

Kittitas County Town Hall

Monday, May 6th, 2004 6:00 – 8:00pm
Kittitas County Fairgrounds – Heritage Center
512 N. Poplar Street, Ellensburg, WA

Snohomish County Town Hall

Wednesday, June 2nd 6:30 – 8:30pm
Everett Station – Weyerhaeuser Room
3201 Smith Street, Everett, WA

King County Town Hall

Tuesday, June 8th, 2004 Time TBD
Pickering Barn
1730 10th Ave NW, Issaquah, WA

Insight Panels

Insight Panel Discussions will follow the Town Hall Meetings. The Insight Panels will provide an opportunity for leading citizens from the civic, business, governmental and academic worlds to respond to the outcomes of the Town Halls based upon their areas of expertise. There will be panels in each county during the spring, followed by a regional panel discussion in the fall. Charley Royer, former Mayor of Seattle, will moderate the panel discussions together with local leaders.

Pierce County Insight Panel Wednesday, May 19

Kittitas County Insight Panel Thursday, May 27

Snohomish County Insight Panel Wednesday, June 16th

King County Insight Panel Friday, June 25th (tentative)

Be a part of the Dialogues by logging your thoughts today! Your input will help to shape the work of Cascade Land Conservancy and will help guide the efforts of your local leaders to protect the features of the landscape and your community that are most valuable to you and your family.

You are invited to learn more about the Cascade Dialogues and to help in creating a vision for our community’s future. For more information survey response and event schedule, please visit www.cascadedialogues.org

Olmsted

FRIENDS OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARKS

P.O. Box 9884, Seattle, Washington 98109
www.seattle.gov/FriendsOfOlmstedParks

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Formed in 1983 to promote awareness, enjoyment and care of our Olmsted parks and landscapes, both public and private.

For more information about the Friends, to join or volunteer, contact Doug Jackson at 206-282-6182, douglasejackson@hotmail.com

Memberships: ☐\$25 individual ☐\$50 Supporting/Household
☐\$100 Sustaining/Business ☐\$200 Donor ☐\$500 Best Friend

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Please join us for the FSOP Annual Meeting with
Paul Dorpat :
Changing Seattle 1903~1911
(see front page for details)

FSOP Annual Meeting ~ April 18

A Presentation by **Paul Dorpat: Changing Seattle 1903 ~ 1911**

Sunday, April 18, 2004 3:00-5:00pm

Cal Anderson Park Shelter House, 11th Avenue and East Olive Street on Capitol Hill



"A big lot of earth has been removed since I was here in June. The hill is all gone back of Hotel Washington and Moore's theater..."

This is certainly a more imposing city now than Boston was when it had only 300,000 which is the population of Seattle."

John C. Olmsted
in a letter to his wife
commenting on the
Denny Regrade project
December 7, 1909